

HANKLEY COMMON LONG TRAIL 16.5K CIRCULAR TRAIL 4-5 HRS GU10 2DA

This figure of eight trail across Hankley Common takes you over a golf course into a Managed Access area of stunning lowland heath with great views, patches of forest and wide open heather moor, criss-crossed with very inviting wide sandy tracks. The going is excellent and the route sticks to public rights of way as this area is used for military exercises. It has a fine picnic spot half way and a pub stop with a big car park on the way home!



Park at Tilford, beyond the **1** green, GU10 2DA. Head south on Tilford Street past the green, pub and church, and the large car park is on your left, just before the white village entrance gates.

With the road behind you, head east along the Byway Open to All Traffic (BOAT) and carry on past Stockbridge Pond on your right, past the vehicle restriction barrier, ignoring paths to your right. **2**



Keep to the track bearing slightly left. It passes beneath power lines. **3**

After 2k you come to a junction of paths with a tree on the left with a signboard for Upper Hankley, Hankley Farm and Hankley Cottage. Turn sharp right following the arrow to Hankley Cottage. **4**



Head along this beautiful trail, which forks right from the cottage drive with a bridlemarker, for just over 1k until you come to a junction just in front of Yagden Hill.

Go left, keeping to the bridleway skirting the hill, **5** with the woods on your left and the open ground to your right.



After about 600m you reach a junction. Bear left into the woods for 600m. **6**



You will go past a track on the right and come to a T junction with bridleway markers and a yellow bar mark. Turn hard right. **7**



This wide sand track takes you up to the Lion's Mouth, a big open junction of paths.

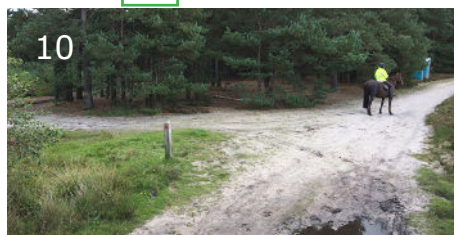
This is the centre point of your figure of eight and could be your picnic spot. Ride past the portable loos on your right, taking the wide trail second left heading towards Kettlebury Hill. **8**



This is a fantastic trail that runs for 3k along a ridge with wonderful views - you could be in the New Forest! **9**



There are paths joining from left and right. Stay on the ridge, ignore them and keep going, following the bridleway marker. **10**



The path starts to wind to the right with woodland on your left. You will come to a cross roads. Take the right hand **10** path heading slightly downhill.



You will hear traffic as you are heading down towards a road but the path ends at a barrier into a Military Training Area car park. Turn left before the barrier along the Permissive Bridlepath. **11**



This woodland path takes you for 1k along the very edge of Houndown Bottom - a sheer hillside to your right with a stream at the bottom. It ends at a driveway with a metal pole barrier. **12** Turn left along



the drive. This is the official bridleway, but just on your left is a well-used sand track which has much better going. It is a wonderful path that goes straight for about 1.3k to a metalled road at Truxford Wood Farm.

Turn left up the road, again there is a sandy path to the side of it, and ride on past the big car park on the left. **13**



Go past the barrier and on down the road until you see a bridleway sign on the right taking you on a wide track away to the right of a military depot. This takes you back to the Lion's Mouth.

It is worth doing another little detour here. There is a track leading downhill to the left of the loos at Lion's Mouth. If you go down it for about 20m or so you come to the Atlantic Wall on the left.

This is the remains of a D-Day training site. Based on intelligence and air reconnaissance,

Canadian troops built a replica of a section of Hitler's wall in 1943 so they could practise attacking and breaching the obstacles. 14



It is about 100m long, 3m high by 3.5m wide, divided into two sections once linked by huge steel gates. Nearby are dragon's teeth and huge concrete blocks. Now return to your proper path! 15



This starts from the Lion's Mouth to the right of the loos, heading north west. It is a fine wide sandy track heading down through Hankley Common Golf Course for 1.3k, (watch out for golfers) ending up at the clubhouse. 16



If you are thirsty, carry on down the drive for 100m past a holiday park and head into the car park of the Duke of Cambridge pub on your left. Ample space to hold horses while you have a drink. Go back to the club house and steel yourself to go through the car park with the club house on your right (there are NO obvious right of way signs) and head for the path between a high conifer hedge on the left and a putting green on the right. This is the Greensand Way. 17



Follow the path round to the left through the woods past Stockbridge Pond. 18



At the junction with the BOAT turn left and after 600m or so you will be back to the car park.



